

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland
SUBJECT Naval Coastal Artillery Battalion in Redlowo

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1. The Naval Coastal Artillery Battalion (Divizjon Artylerji Nadbrzeżnej Marynarki Wojennej) was located in Redlowo, a suburb south of Gdynia ~~5430N-1833E~~. This coastal defense unit faced the sea on cliffs which rose about 20 m. from a rocky beach and were the highest point along the coast in this area. A barbed-wire fence approximately 2½ m. high enclosed the entire military area, including a wooded section and a few feet of the sand beach at the base of the cliffs. Between the barbed-wire fence and a two-meter-high sea wall, which ran along the edge of the beach, was a stretch of sand, 10 m. wide, on which civilians were allowed. Four stairways placed at each quarter of the sea wall gave bathers access to the water. Beyond the sea wall to the water's edge was extremely rocky (sic), some stones weighing as much as 100 lbs. The sea floor was composed of small smooth stones and sloped at a decline of one meter per 10, but on either side the continental shelf fell sharply away. The sand beach narrowed north and south of the bathing area, and out in the sea two hulls of sunken ships could be seen protruding from the water. There were no mine fields or submarine nets in the ocean in this vicinity.
2. A line of 17 to 20 Soviet 135 mm. howitzers (Haubica), placed at intervals of 15 m., pointed out to sea from under their camouflage nets. Each was in an open emplacement and was manned by a crew of six or seven battalion members. the range of these guns was 20 km., the arc of fire 360°, and the elevation of fire 90°. the guns were hand-loaded because if they were fired at a high angle of elevation they had to be lowered to be reloaded. the ground was being excavated around each gun; the guns were to be enclosed in concrete bunkers.

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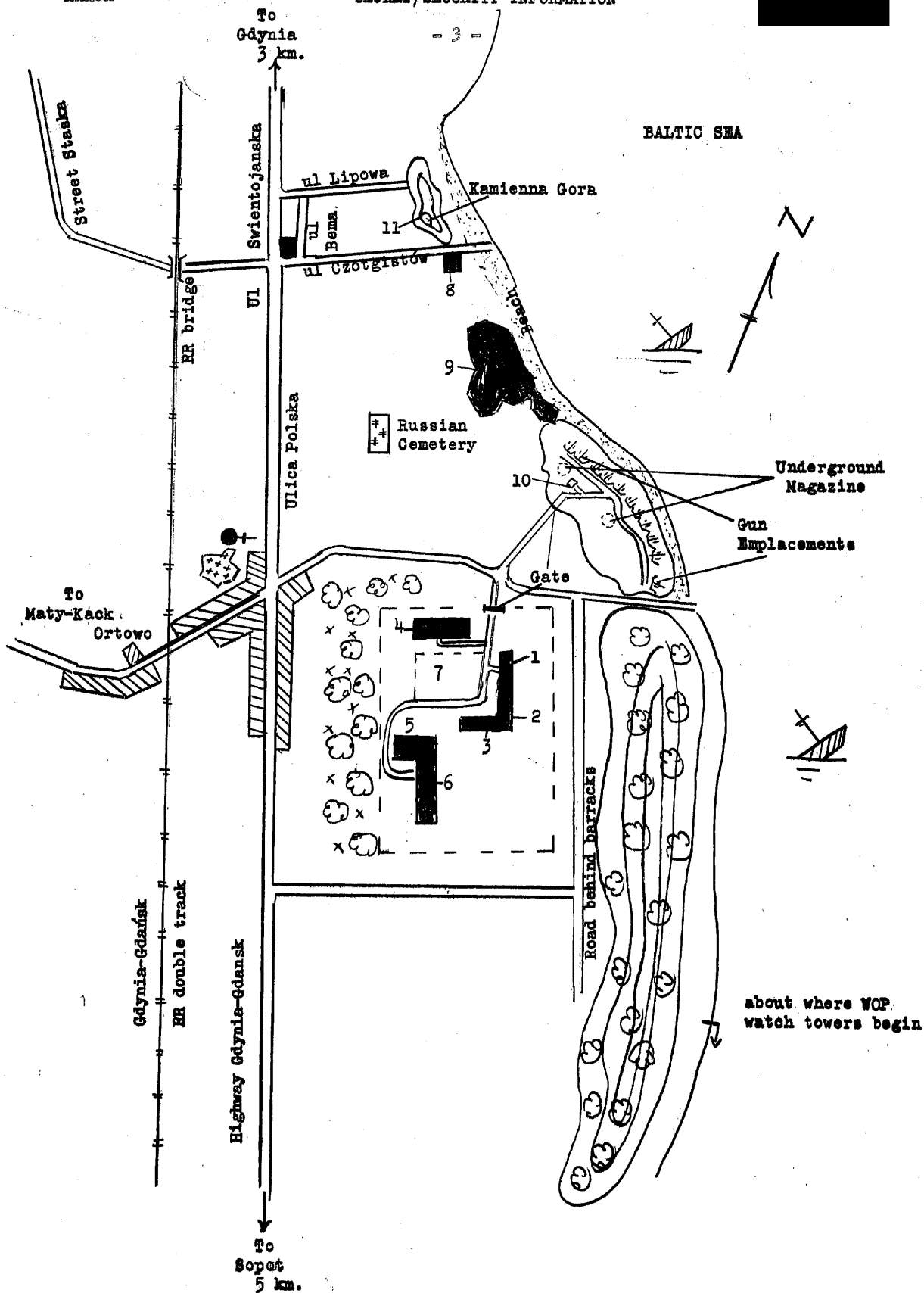
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- 25X1A 3. Ammunition was stored underground and to the rear of the guns. There were two cave-like entrances to the ammunition magazine, 25X1X around which [redacted] crews working [redacted] so [redacted] the 25X1A magazines were being enlarged. Ammunition was brought to the guns above ground on small railroad carts; a separate track about three feet wide led to each gun.
4. Around the entrances to the ammunition magazine, and reaching further back, was a small forest of medium density.
5. Just beyond the south side of the bathing beach a string of guard towers began which reached to Sopot; each tower was separated by 35-45 m., was 10-15 m. high, and was equipped with a telephone and a searchlight which had a lens about one foot in diameter. These watchtowers were each occupied by a guard from the Army Border Guards (Wojsko Ochrony Pogranicza -- WOP).
6. The roads in this area were dirt, with the exception of the asphalt Gdynia-Gdansk highway. The road leading from this asphalt highway to the battalion barracks was about seven meters wide and had an up-hill grade of 10%; from the barracks to the beach the road narrowed to four meters.
7. The railroad tracks along the side of the Gdynia-Gdansk highway were double-track.
- 25X1A 8. [redacted] saw radar antennas in the area of this coastal defense unit.

25X1A Annex: [redacted] Sketch of the Naval Coastal Artillery Battalion in Redlowo

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Sketch of the Naval Coastal Artillery Battalion in Redlowo

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Annex

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Legend

1. A two-story wooden barracks for sappers. These men were used to excavate around the gun emplacements.
2. Administrative offices.
3. Barracks of the Naval Coastal Arty. Bn. Occupancy: about 240 men.
4. Mess hall. The radio station was located on the second floor. Food and clothing were also stored in this building.
5. Small arms magazine.
6. A building used by the Naval Tng. School for NCO's.
7. Parade ground.
8. Dormitory for members of the Polish Merchant Marine.
9. A small village.
10. Communications and observation tower for the commanding officer during firing exercises. Also here was the underground ammunition magazine for the coastal artillery guns.
11. On the top of Kamienna Gora (Rock Hill) was a tall wooden crucifix which could be seen from the Hel Peninsula.

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